CAMBRIDGE LUNATIC ASYLUM COMPETITION.

THIS competition, involving many excellent designs, was finally decided on Tuesday last by the committee, in favour of the motto, "Au Bon Droit," proving to be the design of Messrs. Kendall and Pope, of London, the architects of the Essex County Asylum. Upwards of fifty designs, we understand, were sent in, the estimates varying from 17,000*l.* to 70,000*l.* The style of the approved design is Collegiate, like the charitable institutions of olden times; with a chapel, tower, and spire forming the central object. The accommodation is for 200 patients. The estimate, 26,000*l.*

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are being entered into for the reseating of Boston Church, at a cost of about 3,000*l.* The number of seats will also be increased by 500.——The churchwardens of St. Swithin's parish, Lincoln, are about to call for tenders for the formation of a parochial cemetery on a plan already prepared for a site also ready fixed on. The ground is to be laid out on the continental system.——On Tuesday in last week the first stone of a new chapel, for the accommodation of the inmates of the Norwich Infirmary and Asylum, was laid on the ground adjoining that institution for aged persons. The guardians voted 250*l.* for that purpose. Mr. Kitton, architect, supplied plans, and Messrs. Howard and Stone contracted for the erection. The chapel will be cruciform, built of brick, and covered with slate. The interior will be fitted up to accommodate 200 persons. Arrangements will be made for the separation of infirm, insane, and epileptic persons.——A companion memorial to the monumental window recently placed in the church of Litcham, Norfolk, by Mr. Douglas Lynes, of that place, in memory of his late father, has recently been dedicated by Miss Lynes to the memory of her late mother. The two windows are severally placed at the east end of the south aisle, and in the easternmost compartment of the south wall of that aisle. Both are of three lights, and have the same tracery: in each the two side-lights have emblematical devices, within quatrefoiles, and trefoiles upon a field of diapered quarries, within rich borders, while the two central lights have canopied figures. In Miss Lynes's window the central light is occupied by a group, consisting of the figure of our Lord, having the sister of Lazarus sitting in rapt attention at his feet: at the base of the composition, in an architectural panel, is an appropriate text. Messrs. Ward and Nixon, of London, are the artists of both windows: the designs were furnished by the son of the incumbent of Litcham, the Rev. Charles Boutell. —— The tender of Mr. Denham, of Ryde, builder, is accepted for the building of a new house for Lord and Lady Downes, at Binstead, upon the original site. ——Great excitement prevails at Dudley, in consequence of the castle ruins, walks, and caverns having been leased by Lord Ward to the South Staffordshire Railway Company for a period of seven years. It is understood, however, that the company do not intend to exclude the inhabitants. The object they have in view, says *Aris's Gazette*, is annually to produce a series of castle *fêtes*, as a speculation to bring traffic on their line to Dudley.—— The idea of erecting a new church amongst the villas now being erected on the Cook's Folly side of Durdham Down, Clifton, is entertained by the inhabitants in that district. The bishop of the diocese has given his consent to the project.——The foundation-stone of St. Paul's Parochial Schools, Bristol, was laid on Thursday in last week. The contract, according to the *Bristol Journal*, has been taken by Mr. John Lawrence, builder, and the erection is expected to cost about 800*l.*——Nearly 20,000*l.* have now been raised for the erection of the new General Hospital at Bristol, and the selection of a site is engaging the attention of the committee.——The banks of the Wye, at Chepstow, near the intended bridge, now bear a business-like appearance, and the immense tube, manufactured on the spot, will shortly be removed; the heavy castings from Dublin having arrived. The chains and blocks are on the spot, with six large crab winches, capable of lifting nearly fifty tons each, and in two months a walking passage, at least, over this rapid stream is anticipated.——It has been agreed to expend the fund for the Bailey Testimonial, at Hereford, on the cathedral choir, in preference either to the erection of a church, or the formation of a statue, &c.—— The new martello tower, west of the dockyard at Pembroke, has been finished, and the other is in a very forward state. The small fort on the Stack Rock, at the entrance of the haven, is progressing under the hands of the contractors. It is in contemplation to erect another and more powerful battery of heavy guns on Thorn Island, commanding the southern entrance.——When the last stone was placed on the top of the spire of St. James's Church, Devonport, the clergyman, architect, builders, workmen, and others, partook of luncheon on a platform round the top-stone, 150 feet from the ground.——The foundation-stone of schools in connection with St. Ann's Roman Catholic Chapel, Edge-hill, Liverpool, was laid on Monday week. The new edifice will be in the early English style, and its interior being about 93 feet by 30, it will afford accommodation for about 850 boys, girls, and infants. The design is by Mr. W. Willis Lloyd, of St. George's, Hull; and it is expected that the erection will be completed within the present year. The purchase-money of the land has been contributed by subscriptions, amounting to about 600*l.*, and the total estimated cost of the building, including the land, is 2,000*l.*——It is intended to take up and relay the paved approaches to the various entrances to St. Giles's parish church, Newcastle-under-Lyme. The grave-stones are to be replaced.——The Darwen Gas Company have recently declared a dividend of 7 per cent., and the Durham Gas Company one of 8 per cent.——The Rev. Dr. Hamilton's Monument, recently erected in the Woodhouse Cemetery, Leeds, is about 23 feet in height, and covers a space 7 feet square at the base. It is composed of base or pedestal supporting four Grecian Doric columns, 6 feet 9 inches high, surmounted by an architrave, frieze, cornice, &c. The architrave is ornamented with guttæ: the triglyphs are omitted, and sculptured representations of the cross, a book, and olive branches substituted. The four angles are ornamented with honeysuckles and hanging wreaths. On the top of the pedestal is placed a large urn, partly covered by drapery. The design was prepared by Mr. J. Dobson, architect, and executed in cleansed stone from Park Spring Quarries, by Mr. Geo. Hogg, of Leeds, builder.——The foundation stone of a chapel for the Wesleyan reformers, was laid at Dock-street, Monkwearmouth, on Wednesday in last week.——Docks are about to be constructed at Shields.——The foundation-stone of the new slaughter-houses at Edinburgh is to be laid on 31st instant.

COMPETITION FOR ST. GEORGE'S HALL, BRADFORD.

THE competition for St. George's Hall, Bradford, which was advertised in THE BUILDER for weeks, inviting architects to submit designs, and relative to which about 200 architects applied for "instructions," has, like other similar affairs, been decided. How? I will tell you, Mr. Editor, as briefly as its importance will permit me.

On Saturday, the 15th of this month of March, the designs were sent in to the secretary, Mr. Hailstone; and I am told a goodly number were received, but the exact number has not transpired to the public at the time I write this. On Tuesday, the 18th, three days after the designs were sent in, the directors met for the *first time* to examine them, when it was declared that most of the designs possessed very considerable merit, and *many* of them were very *eligible and suitable* for the purposes for which the building is intended. But, notwithstanding the eligibility of so many of the designs, the directors, before they broke up their *first meeting*, decided the fate of all the competitors *except six or eight*; and designs which had cost competitors weeks of study and labour, independently of expense, were adjudicated upon and rejected in a few hours by these directors.

On Wednesday, the 19th, the directors met again for the second time, and it was rumoured in the town that the final decision would be made that day; but I could not credit this report: however, the Bradford paper, which was published the day following, said, they had made every inquiry about the music hall, and they had been in hopes of being able to publish the decision of the committee that day; so that, after this statement, I thought my information received on the Wednesday was not far from being correct, and I concluded that the directors were about to *decide* this important matter *too hastily*, to come to an honest, impartial, and correct decision, such a decision which every competitor had a right to expect at their hands.

On Friday, the 21st, the directors met, for the *third* time, when they selected the design by Messrs. Lockwood and Mawson. So you see, Mr. Editor, that at *three sittings*, the directors of the St. George's Hall, Bradford, decided, in as *many hours*, what would have taken you, or any other professor of equal respectability and standing, as many days to decide.

And this decision accords with a report which was current in the town a fortnight before the plans were sent in.

A gentleman has informed me there are several plans of considerable merit by architects in Bradford, Leeds, and London, and as there is much jealousy with regard to the decision of the directors, I hope they will make a public exhibition of all the designs, in order that the competitors and the public may judge for themselves.

A LOVER OF FAIR PLAY AND A COMPETITOR.

TO LAY PLAIN TILES.—TILE ARCHES FOR ROOFS.

IN reply to "W. X.," as to the best method of laying plain tiles on a roof so as to make it completely weather-tight, I would advise the following method, viz., first, let the tiles be well damped in water previous to being laid on the roof, and let all the heading joints of each course of tiling be carefully jointed with good mortar, and the edges of the tiles rubbed together. The joint of mortar should only extend from the top of the tile down to 5 inches above the bottom end of the same—the lower 5 inches of joint to be left entirely without any jointing whatsoever, so as to allow the rain water to find its way freely through the joint between the tiles down on to the middle part of the tile immediately under the joint, and from thence downwards to the eaves or drip. If the tiles are 10 inches long there will, by this means, be 5 inches of weather-tight work higher up on the roof than the gauge of the tiling, and a lap of 2 inches where the three thicknesses of tiling are. It is most essential that the tiles be all whole and entire at the top ends, and well jointed, as that is the place where the wet is likely to find its way through to the inside of the roof, if not properly taken care of. It will also be seen that the open part of the joints between the tiles extends 1 inch higher up on the roof than the lower ends of the course of tiles immediately lying on the same, thereby allowing the rain water that may be driven upwards by the wind or capillary attraction to find its way freely downwards again.

By this method there is no occasion to bed the tiles; but if they are bedded the mortar should on no account be laid any lower down on the tiles than 5 inches up from the lower ends of the same, and which has the effect of making the finished tiling look very open at the bottom of each course. Bedding the tiles with hay or straw is of little or no use, except to steady them. A CLERK OF WORKS.

In reply to "W. X.," who is anxious to know the best method of laying plain tiles, permit me to say, first, if round end

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